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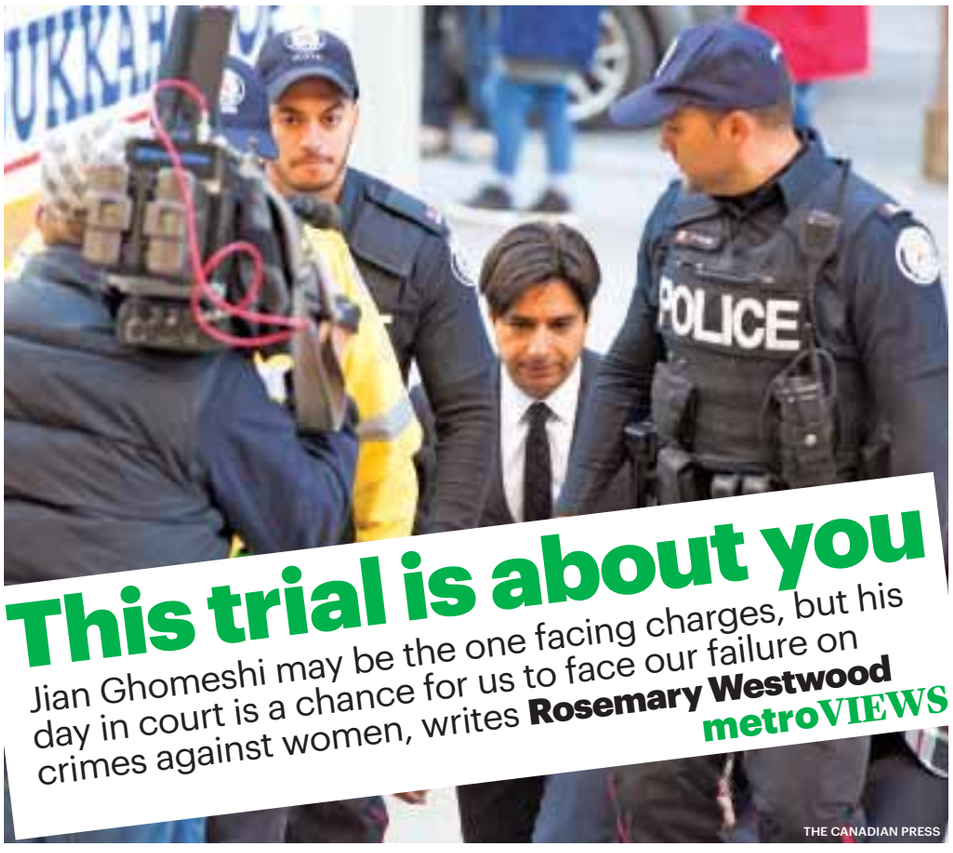

This trial is about you

Jian Ghomeshi may be the one facing charges, but his day in court is a chance for us to face our failure on crimes against women, writes **Rosemary Westwood**
metroVIEWS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sewage plan could cost $4B

WATER AND WASTE

Least expensive option estimated at $830 million

Elisha Dacey
Metro | Winnipeg

If Winnipeg wants to completely prevent sewage from running into the rivers, it's going to cost anywhere from $2 billion to $4 billion to do so.

That's the conclusion to be presented Monday to the city's water and waste committee.

The result of three years of study and public consultation, the 600-page Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Master Plan Preliminary Proposal gives the city five options for controlling sewer overflows, including: Updating the system to capture 85 per cent of overflows; allowing four overflows a year; allowing no more than four overflows a year; allowing no overflows a year; and complete sewer separation.

"There are several CSO control options that can reduce or eliminate CSOs, but there is no quick fix and any measurable improvements will require a large capital investment in infrastructure," reads the report.

The most expensive option, complete sewer separation, is pegged at a capital cost of $2.7 billion. Given the project's stated margin of error for cost estimates, that number could go as high as $4.1 billion.

The least expensive option, capturing 85 per cent of overflows, is estimated to cost $830 million to $1.2 billion.

Capturing 85 per cent of sewer overflows would reduce the number of overflows to 15 a year on average from the current 22, according to the proposal.

The report notes despite any method employed to prevent CSOs, "the benefits to the rivers and Lake Winnipeg will be marginal. The rivers will not be swimmable; Recreational use of the rivers is not likely to change; The effects on Lake Winnipeg will not be noticeable.

"Further improvements for the rivers or Lake Winnipeg will therefore have to be achieved through implementation of other programs."

The preliminary proposal will be sent to the province for analysis.

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The United States is a nation divided ahead of Iowa. **World**

20-year MLA Mackintosh has 'kissed his last baby'

POLITICS

Justice minister won't seek re-election in provincial vote

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

When Gord Mackintosh stepped into his crowded constituency office to officially announce he would not be seeking re-election, he was beaming ear-to-ear.

A tie-less Mackintosh shook a few hands and kissed his last baby — remarking that it may indeed be the last, earning a laugh — then shared a few stories with the political types, constituents and media crammed into the space.

He was first elected in 1993, and said he previously conspired years ago to make this exit from politics, on the 20th anniversary of his entrance in September 2013.

But his sense of duty and service — combined with a hope that he could do more with the portfolio he then had, and then more since — kept him from pulling the parachute cord.

The reporters gathered wanted to know if his choice to leave now had to do with where the NDP sits in the polls, trailing the Progressive Conservatives.

He said that's not the case.

"I would relish that good fight," Mackintosh said. "The current polls were one of the reasons in fact… that I thought would be enticing to stay on."

Mackintosh thanked his family, his constituents, constituency staff, and colleagues from all parties, specifically noting that sometimes there's a little too much partisanship—"fair game" in election season, he says, but sometimes an encumbrance.

"I've always made it absolutely clear… a constituent problem from any MLA in that house has to be treated with equal dignity and priority, because we are here to serve everyone," he said.

The dutiful MLA made sure to mention in his remarks that although he won't be a part of the NDP's future, he's still got work to do in the house, major legislation to "shepherd" through, more work at hand to "protect Manitoba families" and children.

> **You've served us extremely well.**
> Premier Greg Selinger to his outgoing caucus-mate, Gord Mackintosh

He also reminisced with Premier Greg Selinger, who lauded his contributions.

Selinger said Mackintosh's early work in the justice portfolio with the lighthouses program created safe spaces, departing from the normal efforts of a justice minister by doing "things that actually prevented crime" rather than just being "tough" on it.

He remarked that in his family services role, Mackintosh was responsible in no small way for helping expand daycare in schools and neighbourhoods, and for building more affordable housing.

As the minister responsible for conservation Selinger said his good friend increased the protected areas, and his "Tomorrow Now" strategy informed the government's climate change strategy.

He also counted "the family law bill and the domestic violence bill" as career achievements.

"These are things that make a life-and-death difference in people's lives," Selinger said to his 10-year seatmate in cabinet rooms and the house, the man he parked beside every day for years. "You've served us extremely well."

Gord Mackintosh, right, mingles with well-wishers at his constituency office. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

NDP loses second cabinet minister this week

Earlier this month, Justice Minister Gord Mackintosh was walking with his wife Margaret when, as he says, "it started to snow."

Alluding to the reference made by Pierre Trudeau when discussing his decision to resign as prime minister in 1984, Mackintosh said he had decided to end his 23-year career as a politician after the April 19 election.

His "developing thinking" on the matter started years ago, but his announcement comes just two days after another NDP stalwart, former finance minister Jennifer Howard, decided not to run again.

Howard and Mackintosh were both nominated earlier this year to contest their constituent seats, and now both have walked away from that commitment.

They join a growing list of NDP would-be incumbents, including Jim Rondeau, Nancy Allan, Erin Selby, Theresa Oswald and Stan Struthers.

Mackintosh said it's part of the legislature organically refreshing itself.

"When those decisions feel right then they have to be acted on and we have to move ahead," he said. "The flip side of that is rejuvenation… I think that always serves parties well."

Premier Greg Selinger agreed with that sentiment, deflected pointed questions about whether the departure was a death knell for the party.

"The other side of that story, is that when people step up… they're stepping up because they believe in the policies and the things we've accomplished," he said.

Selinger couldn't say whether there was time for a nomination in either of Howard and Mackintosh's ridings, or if the candidates would be appointed.

"We know there are excellent people interested in running in this seat, and we know that when they run they will have the support of the retiring MLA," he said.

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

IN BRIEF

Woman awaits sentence for hiding HIV status

A Winnipeg woman who was convicted of aggravated assault for hiding her HIV-positive status from her boyfriend is asking for a conditional sentence.

Marjorie Schenkels, 27, was convicted by a jury in December 2014 for her actions two years previous.

The boyfriend later became infected, but Schenkels' lawyer argued the man could have been exposed to the virus a different way.

Prosecutors seek a five-year prison sentence.

During her sentencing hearing on Thursday, Schenkels' doctor was called to the stand and testified she was a very low risk to reoffend.

The doctor testified that Schenkels is healthy and compliant with her treatment.

The judge has reserved a decision in the case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police nip marijuana grow-op in the bud

Winnipeg police have busted their third major grow-op in a month, this time netting more than half a million dollars in marijuana and growing equipment from an East Kildonan home.

A 57-year-old Winnipeg man arrested during the police's search of the residence is now facing drug trafficking charges.

Const. Eric Hofley said there's no clear upward trend or increase in grow-op activity, but noted "this is unfortunately a common occurrence."

He said it's likely because of the net value of crops like the one seized this week, which had a reported 488 plants.

"I think people somehow view the risk as limited, for whatever reason, and they are willing to take these homes and turn them into grow-ops," he said. "Less than 500 plants gives you an opportunity to perhaps come away with in excess of $500,000.

"There is large amounts of money to be made."

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ex-student charged after video threats

An 18-year-old former student has been arrested and faces several charges in relation to a YouTube video titled "Wiping out Kildonan East."

In the YouTube video, a male voice raps over a still image of the school, insults students by name and eventually raps the line "boom, school dead," punctuated by the sound of machine-gun fire.

Winnipeg police Const. Eric Hofley said that "in this day and age, with the tragic events that just occurred in La Loche, when someone allegedly is willing to post this type of video threatening institutions, threatening people, the service is going to take that very seriously."

The young man has been charged with uttering threats; four counts of harassing communications for each of the students he called out by name; and mischief under $5,000.

Hofley said he had no prior convictions, was released on promise to appear before the courts and had no weapons at his home.

The school's superintendent Kelly Barkman learned of the video Thursday morning as the school day began, after which the building was put on high alert.

> **We have to take this YouTube threat very seriously.**
> Const. Eric Hofley

The high alert meant staff monitored the premises for strangers and all but the front doors remained locked through Friday.

"We are always concerned about safety. We have to take this YouTube threat very seriously," he said. METRO

POLICE SERVICES

Woman suing city for excessive force

A woman is suing the City of Winnipeg and its police force, claiming officers used excessive force and violated her rights during a 2011 incident.

Nikki Cox, 49, has testified she was parked in the back of the St. James Civic Centre when officers approached her.

She says they pointed their weapons at her and an officer put a boot on her back when she was on the ground, even though she says she was not resisting.

Cox, who is transgender, also says she overheard officers refer to her as a "tranny," although she says she doesn't believe the remark was derogatory.

Court heard the officers were looking for two break-and-enter suspects at the time.

A lawyer representing the police says the officers used proper force as Cox was not complying with their demands.

Court was told that when officers realized Cox was not who they were looking for, they apologized and released her.

CTV WINNIPEG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg Willow will not be around to predict this year's spring. COURTESY PRAIRIE WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTRE

Willow dies just short of Groundhog Day

TRADITIONS

Forecasting woodchuck was a Winnipeg institution

Elisha Dacey
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg's premiere rodent forecaster has died.

The Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre confirmed on its Facebook page that Winnipeg Willow the woodchuck died Friday night.

"We are in complete shock and sadness with tears coming down our face to announce the passing of Winnipeg Willow this evening," they wrote. "She was acting her normal self this morning and eating a carrot but (we) came in this evening to find her gone."

Willow, along with puppet Manitoba Merv, predicted the weather every spring. They often differed on their forecasts.

According to the centre, Willow was brought into the centre in 2010 when her mother was killed by a dog. She was originally slated to be nursed to health and released, but she broke her leg in an outdoor enclosure. Because she spent so much time around humans, she was adopted into the centre's educational program and entertained students and staff alike.

"She had her moments, especially around Feb. 2 where she could get a bit grumpy but otherwise loved to go out," reads a Facebook post.

> **From her current behavior this past winter, we were going to predict an early spring.** Facebook post

"Life expectancy of woodchucks range from four to six years, so we hoped she lived her full time and was loved every minute of her life. She will be missed by my family and volunteers.

"From her current behavior this past winter, we were going to predict an early spring as she was eager to head outdoors."

There was no word on whether this means winter will never end for Winnipeg — but hopefully Manitoba Merv will have something to say about that Tuesday.

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NBA PROGRAM

Teen invited to Basketball Without Borders camp

Meg Crane
For Metro | Winnipeg

Talk about the ball being in your court.

Niyah Becker, a 15-year-old Vincent Massey Collegiate student, will be making her way to Toronto for the National Basketball Association's (NBA) second annual Basketball Without Borders (BWB) Global Camp.

Becker said she was honoured when she got the invitation.

"I was jumping up and down, I was so excited," said Becker, who is one of 53 youth from around the world to be invited — and one of only 10 girls.

It was entirely unexpected, she said, adding she didn't know the camp existed, or that anyone had their eye on her.

Becker said she has been playing basketball since she was 8.

She first picked up a basketball because her family played. Now, she's on Manitoba's provincial team and travels across Canada for tournaments and camps.

"I love that it's a team sport," Becker said. "When other people do stuff, you feel good."

She said she also learns from other players — which, she expects, she will be doing at the BWB camp from Feb. 12 to 14.

"I know that being coached by some of the best coaches will expand my knowledge and skill development," said Becker, who has been to other high-level camps, including the Canadian national team camp in December.

> Being coached by some of the best coaches will expand my knowledge and skill development.
> Niyah Becker

NBA legend Yao Ming will be one of the coaches at the BWB camp, according to a news release sent out by the NBA.

"The BWB program continues to teach values like leadership, teamwork and respect that have application on and off the court," said NBA vice president of international basketball operations, Brooks Meek, in a news release.

He said it's a great opportunity for the children to learn from professional coaches and players.

Niyah Becker plays for the provincial team. BASKETBALL MANITOBA

JUSTICE

Appeals court overturns shooter's one-year term

A Manitoba man, who said he fired shots at a home because two people who lived there had bullied him, had his one-year sentence overturned by the province's appeal court.

Bryce McMillan was given the 12-month term after pleading guilty to firing at the home in Carberry, west of Winnipeg, in 2011.

The trial judge ruled that the federal government's mandatory four-year minimum sentence for gun crimes violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Crown appealed the decision and the Manitoba Court of Appeal imposed the federal minimum term in a ruling brought down late last week.

The court says too much emphasis was placed on the bullying argument during the trial and the one-year sentence sends the wrong message.

But the court stayed the rest of the sentence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A continuation of tradition

QUILLWORK

Artist gives modern twist to indigenous weaving ritual

Meg Crane
For Metro | Halifax

Dolorès Contré-Migwans is weaving a modern twist through a traditional indigenous art form.

Quillwork, the weaving of porcupine quills through birchbark, is becoming more difficult to do, she said, as the health of birch trees declines due to environmental damage, leaving less useable bark.

To get around this, Contré-Migwans found a way to create a paper made out of linen and de-fibred birchbark that can be used for quillwork.

But she still uses sheets of birchbark when she can.

"To me, the most powerful experience is doing this quillwork on the bark," said Contré-Migwans, adding it's a way for her to connect with nature.

Dolorès Contré-Migwans with her art at Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum. MEG CRANE/FOR METRO

> To me, the most powerful experience is doing this quillwork on the bark ... It's a kind of dynamic that reaches your gut, somehow. Dolorès Contré-Migwans

"There's something special that is alive in the bark and the quill. When you mix those two together as a marriage, it's a kind of dynamic that reaches your gut, somehow," said Contré-Migwans.

Contré-Migwans said Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum, where she will be showing her art this month, actually has old pieces of quillwork in its permanent exhibits.

"What is great is that we are still doing it today. There is a continuation of the tradition," Contré-Migwans said.

However, Contré-Migwans isn't strictly following the traditional way of doing quillwork; she is adding contemporary art to her pieces.

Painting and beadwork are incorporated into Contré-Migwans' quillwork, meaning her type of art is unique in the world because of the combination.

Her work will be on display at the museum from Feb. 3 to March 23.

MUSEUM DAYS

In honour of Louis Riel Day, on Feb. 15, Contré-Migwans will demonstrate quillwork at the museum. She will be there from 4 to 7 p.m. for the rest of the week as well.

Provincial employees accept new contract

Manitoba's 14,000 civil servants have ratified a new five-year deal with the province.

The deal promises wage increases along with a no-layoff clause for anyone hired after April 2015.

Michelle Gawronsky, head of the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union, says the deal offers stability and security through to 2019, both for workers and the public.

"In the end," Gawronsky said, "I think most members felt this agreement's mix of wage and benefit increases and job security was a reasonable offer."

In the first two years, members will get wage increases of one per cent, followed by a pair of two per cent wage increases in the last two years.

The union represents highway workers, correctional officers and sheriffs.

They had been without a contract for 18 months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHARITY

Food banks worried about rising prices

Canadian food banks hope the pinch they're feeling from rising food prices isn't snowballing into a full-fledged crisis.

While each agency has unique circumstances, many say higher prices during the peak winter period are limiting how much food they can purchase and having an impact on donations while also spurring a greater demand for their services.

200M

The amount of food, in pounds, that the country's 800 food banks distribute every year to more than 850,000 people, according to Food Banks Canada

Fresh produce prices began to surge after Christmas as adverse weather in U.S. growing regions and a weaker Canadian dollar caused the cost of imports to soar. Some food banks shifted what they handed out, turning more to canned and frozen goods. Most tried to access locally grown produce, particularly root vegetables. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Julie Bourbonniere, executive director of Moisson Montreal, the largest food bank in Canada, looks over the dwindling supply of fruit on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SHARING ECONOMY

Feds study challenges of peer-to-peer sector

Companies like Uber and Airbnb were the subject of a quiet in-depth study by high-ranking federal bureaucrats, Torstar News Service has learned.

A committee of five deputy ministers and a team of analysts undertook a comprehensive study of the so-called sharing economy and its implications for Canadian policymakers and consumers.

The study, delivered to the committee in February 2015, found significant challenges for government regulation of ride sharing, apartment renting and other peer-to-peer transactions.

The report listed three broad areas of concern: the economy, labour and social issues and "privacy, health and safety."

Its authors noted that Canada's social safety net — including the employment insurance and old age security systems — may need to be "redesigned" to meet the needs of sharing-economy workers. Likewise, the risk of unreported income could lead to tax compliance issues and hit social services.

But the deputy ministers were also cautioned against attempting to overregulate the industry because it could stifle innovation and could push the sharing economy "fully outside the government's control." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Medical pot producers eye advertising rule changes

Some of Canada's biggest producers of medical marijuana want Ottawa to implement advertising regulations similar to those that govern the sale of alcohol, as they await the Liberal government's long-promised legal recreational market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Avalanche deaths not a deterrent to snowmobilers

The day after an avalanche killed five snowmobilers in eastern British Columbia, riders returned to the backcountry wilderness. Search-and-rescue manager Rod Whelpton said Friday's deaths would not necessarily be a deterrent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bottled water is distributed to residents of Flint, Mich., on Saturday. THE FLINT JOURNAL-MLIVE.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lead in Canadian water pipes, too, experts warn

HEALTH

About 60,000 households have unsafe service lines

Water-toxicity experts estimate that about 10 per cent of Canadians are at risk of being exposed to lead through their drinking water as Americans in Flint, Mich., grapple with an ongoing water scandal.

Research funded by the Canadian Water Network estimates that about 60,000 households in major cities across the country still have lead service lines connecting the home to the municipal water supply.

Senior researcher Graham Gagnon says each member of those households could find themselves consuming lead.

Gagnon, director for the Centre of Water Resources Studies at Dalhousie University, says lead service lines can also be present in smaller communities and in larger buildings such as schools. Exposure could also come about through buildings using fixtures, faucets or other components containing lead.

But Gagnon and others say Canada's cities have recognized the risks and made a concerted effort to decrease the number of lead pipes in their systems in recent years.

Gagnon believes such efforts may protect those cities from the sort of lead poisoning crisis unfolding in Flint, though he adds communities that haven't launched replacement projects are at greater risk.

Bu Lam, manager of municipal programs at the Canadian Water Network, said communities built before 1950 are far more likely to have used lead in either their municipal water mains or the service lines connecting them to local buildings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A resident uses bottled water to wash her three-week-old son at their home in Flint, Mich. THE DETROIT NEWS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERNET

Tool generates rules for online privacy

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Concerned about your kids' online privacy? Want to set out some ground rules for their use of the Internet, but not sure what they should be?

Canada's privacy watchdog is here to help.

The federal privacy commissioner's office has launched House Rules, a new interactive tool that helps parents manage the growing risks their children face online.

"We want families to consider their online behaviour and how personal information may be collected, used and disclosed so that children will learn to think twice before sharing any sensitive details," Commissioner Daniel Therrien said in a release.

The tool is simple: you choose the online activity you're concerned about, and it spits out some suggestions for rules to govern your kids' behaviour.

The types of activity include playing games, using social networking sites, downloading apps, sharing photos and videos, and online shopping.

Each category has its own potential set of rules to choose from.

(Although the tool's designed for children, these are useful refreshers for many adults on the Internet, too).

A few minutes of using the 'House Rules,' generates a handy list of dos and don'ts, which can be printed off and hung on the fridge. There's room to add your own customized rules to the list.

From there, you can print a list of dos and don'ts to hang on the fridge.

The privacy commissioner's office says the tool is designed for children and preteens. However, it can also be a starting point for discussions with older teenagers about online privacy.

SOCIAL MEDIA

On the use of social networking sites, some suggested rules include:

- We will never write rude or hurtful messages. If we are upset or angry with someone, we will talk to them in person.
- We will remember that things we see on the Internet aren't always true.
- We will always treat people nicely online.

TURKEY

Omar Khadr's sister detained

Zaynab Khadr, the outspoken sister of former Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr, is in custody in Turkey, Torstar News Services has learned.

Khadr had moved to Turkey around the time her younger brother Omar was transferred from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Canada in September 2012. She reportedly remarried and had two young children.

She and her mother, Maha Elsamnah, came under criticism in Canada for remarks they made for a March 2004 CBC documentary titled Al Qaeda Family.

In 2005, Zaynab Khadr was under investigation for terrorism offences by the RCMP but was never charged. It is not known if the Canadian-born Khadr is being held in Turkey for a criminal or immigration matter.

A spokesperson for the Department of Global Affairs said the federal government is aware a Canadian was detained in Turkey and that Canadian officials in Ankara, Turkey, are providing consular assistance.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Zaynab Khadr
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. divided ahead of Iowa

POLITICS

State caucus vote a snapshot of gulf between parties, public

You hear Adam Khan talk about himself and think America maybe isn't so divided after all.

Then you hear him talk about America. Khan, 24, is the son of a Pakistani immigrant father and a white mother. Last year, he was elected chairman of the Republican Party in a key swing county in Nevada. He is a young brown man with Muslim heritage — and a supporter of gay marriage — rising fast in the domain of older white conservatives.

Republican front-runner Donald Trump, Khan said, is threatening to make the party more welcoming to bigots than minorities. His Reno-area community, meanwhile, is more politically polarized than ever.

"The Democrats blame (George W.) Bush for everything. The Republicans blame Obama for everything," he said. "And it just perpetuates the divide."

The voting phase of a rollicking presidential primary begins on Monday, when Iowa's Republicans and Democrats pack gymnasiums for their party caucuses.

> **"Things are much more polarized than they have been at any point at least over the last 80 years.**
> Jocelyn Kiley

It's not just that Republicans and Democrats disagree on how to solve pressing problems; they disagree on what the problems even are. They have starkly different desires about where to live and how to live.

"All the data that we have suggests that, today, things are much more polarized than they have been at any point at least over the last 80 years," said Jocelyn Kiley, associate director of research for the polling organization Pew Research.

President Barack Obama campaigned as a unifying healer. Over his seven years in office, the gulf between the parties has grown far wider — both in the way their politicians vote and in the way their supporters feel.

Republican voters press their candidates on threats to their safety and to the Constitution. Democratic voters ask theirs about the dangers of climate change and income inequality. Town halls held in the same Iowa counties sound like they are taking place in different countries.

"The divide is great," said Jeff Jorgensen, Republican chairman in Iowa's Pottawattamie County. "It's almost a divide that can't be bridged." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Adam Khan CONTRIBUTED

Campaign volunteers listen as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks during a campaign event on Jan. 31, in Waterloo, Iowa. **Sanders continues to seek support for the Democratic nomination prior to the Iowa caucus on Feb. 1.** ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

TANZANIA

British pilot killed by elephant poachers

Elephant poachers in Tanzania fired on a helicopter on an anti-poaching mission and killed the British pilot, and authorities said Sunday they have arrested three suspects.

Roger Gower was shot Friday while flying on a joint operation with Tanzanian wildlife authorities who were tracking the poachers, said the Friedkin Conservation Fund, which oversees some wildlife areas in Tanzania, on its website.

"This tragic event again highlights the appalling risk and cost of protecting Tanzania's wildlife," the Texas-based group said.

Three suspects were arrested, said Jumanne Maghembe, Tanzania's minister for tourism and natural resources. A co-pilot survived with injuries, Tanzanian authorities said.

Tanzania has been identified as a key hot spot for elephant poachers. The population declined 60 per cent to about 40,000 since 2009, according to a 2015 census. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

Suicide bombings cloud UN peace talks

A triple bombing killed dozens in a predominantly Shiite suburb south of the Syrian capital of Damascus on Sunday, even as a UN mediator held his first meeting with members of the main opposition group that seeks progress on humanitarian issues before joining formal talks on ending the five-year civil war.

The attacks were claimed by militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Syria's delegate to the UN-sponsored peace talks said the violence confirmed the connection between "terrorism" and "some political groups" — a reference to those who oppose President Bashar Assad.

> **There is no military solution to this conflict.**
> U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry

The blasts went off in the Damascus suburb of Sayyda Zeinab, about 600 metres from one of the holiest shrines for Shiite Muslims. Syria's state news agency SANA said the attackers detonated a car bomb at a bus stop and that two suicide bombers then set off more explosives as rescuers rushed to the area.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based opposition group that monitors the conflict, said at least 63 people were killed.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry appealed to both sides "to make the most of this moment, to seize the opportunity for serious negotiations, to negotiate in good faith with the goal of making concrete measurable progress in the days immediately ahead."

"Now, while battlefield dynamics can affect negotiating leverage, in the end there is no military solution to this conflict," Kerry said. "Without negotiations, the bloodshed will drag on until the last city is reduced to rubble and virtually every home, every form of infrastructure and every semblance of civilization is destroyed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EX-RADIO HOST BACK IN SPOTLIGHT

Judge may consider 'similar fact' cases as Jian Ghomeshi's trial begins Monday

Crown attorneys prosecuting sexual assault cases often present numerous individual allegations that resemble each other in the hope that a judge will determine they represent "similar fact" evidence.

"Absent evidence of collusion, you start to wonder if they are telling the same story because the accused is doing it," said John Rosen, one of Canada's leading criminal defence lawyers.

Rosen, a criminal lawyer for 46 years, has no involvement in the case but was asked by the Torstar News Service to comment on the process of a criminal trial of this kind.

The trial of Jian Ghomeshi begins Monday at Old City Hall court in Toronto. Three women will testify that he sexually assaulted them (in one case, a charge of choking-overcome resistance has been added) between 2002 and 2003.

Ghomeshi has pleaded not guilty to the charges. Previously, the former Q host has said that all of his sexual activities with women have been entirely "consensual," and in a Facebook post he blamed a jilted lover (who is not part of the proceedings) for spreading lies about him.

Jian Ghomeshi makes his way through a mob of media with his lawyer Marie Henein at a Toronto court on Nov. 26, 2014. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In a trial with multiple complainants, Rosen explained that after they have told their stories under oath, the judge may be asked by the Crown to make a ruling on whether they are "similar fact" cases. If the judge rules they are, Rosen said "that lends corroboration to the complainants."

While an accused does not have to testify, Rosen said the presentation of three individual cases may tip the scales and encourage Ghomeshi to present his side of the story.

That's because, Rosen explained, the "Supreme Court of Canada has said that where you have a complainant who comes forward and testifies and there is no countervailing story coming from the defence, then the trial judge has to look at the credibility of the complainant." Rosen said that if there is no testimony from the accused, and "the trial judge accepts the credibility of the complainant, then it's a downward slide to conviction."

In a sexual assault case, particularly one with no additional evidence, Rosen said it often comes down to which side is believed.

"It's an intimate event. Two people, where nobody else is around. Those two really know what happened."

He said that it can sometimes be in the best interest of the accused to testify, particularly if it appears the trial judge is accepting the credibility of the complainants.

That's when a defence lawyer may put the client on the stand.

Even if the accused's evidence just raises a reasonable doubt, the judge must acquit," Rosen said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TIMELINE

Here are some key dates in Jian Ghomeshi's case.

- **Oct. 24, 2014:** The CBC announces it has cut ties with Ghomeshi.
- **Oct. 27, 2014:** The Toronto Star publishes a report detailing allegations from three women who say Ghomeshi was physically violent to them without their consent before or during sexual encounters.
- **Oct. 29, 2014:** Trailer Park Boys actress Lucy DeCoutere agrees to be identified in connection with her allegations against Ghomeshi.
- **Oct. 31, 2014** Toronto police say they are investigating Ghomeshi after two women come forward with complaints.
- **Nov. 26, 2014** Five sexual assault-related charges are laid against Ghomeshi.
- **April 16, 2015** An internal investigation into the handling of the Jian Ghomeshi scandal finds the former Q host was "deeply disrespectful to employees" and sexually harassed some colleagues.
- **Oct. 1, 2015** Ghomeshi pleads not guilty to all five charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EVIDENCE

Sexual assault convictions could prove 'difficult': Experts

As the trial of disgraced broadcaster Jian Ghomeshi puts the issues of consent and sexual harassment in the national spotlight this week, legal experts caution that convictions in cases of historic sexual assaults are not easy to secure.

Ghomeshi's alleged offences date as far back as 2002, and legal experts say the passing of time often poses a significant challenge to winning a conviction in such cases.

"The obvious answer is just the degradation of evidence," said Karen Bellehumeur, a former Crown prosecutor who dealt frequently with sexual assault cases. "Not only has the memory of the survivor of the abuse degraded so that peripheral details are not as clear, but also there is no longer the corroborating evidence to be investigated by police."

Such evidence could include DNA, observations about injuries or damaged clothing, and witnesses, Bellehumeur said, noting that with little physical evidence, such cases typically boil down to a "he said, she said" scenario, especially when the accused and complainants know each other.

"The main problem is that when you have a case that's just one word against the other, which tends to happen more in historic cases ... then a criminal case has just such a high standard of proof that it becomes very difficult," Bellehumeur said.

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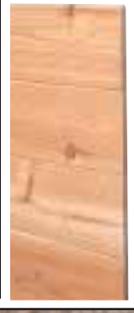

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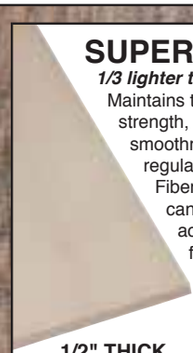

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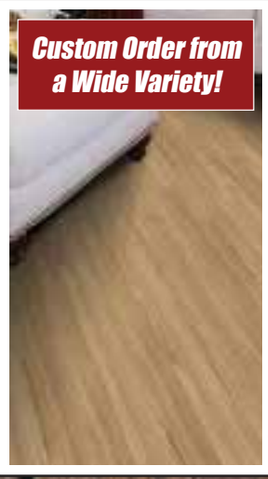

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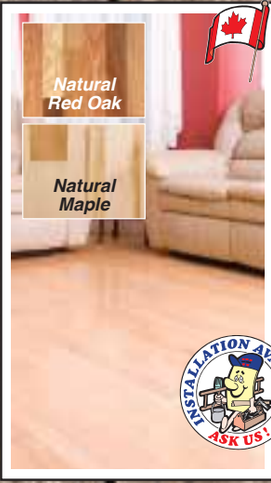

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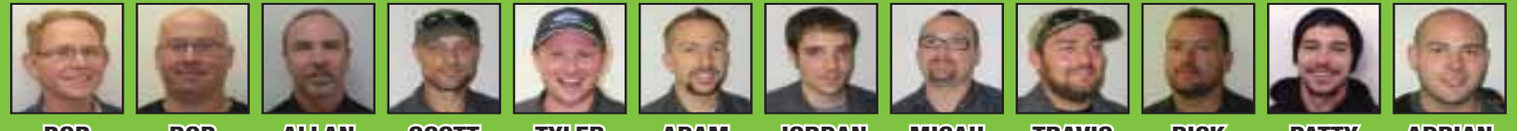

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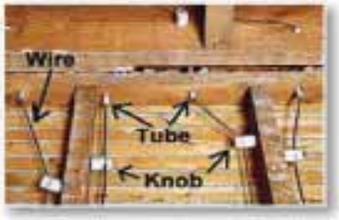

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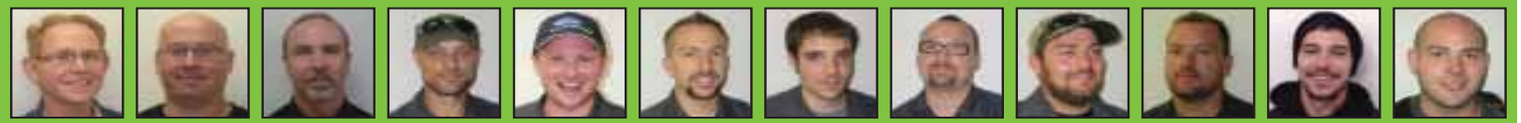

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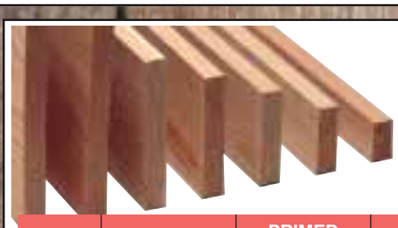

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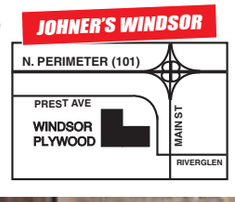

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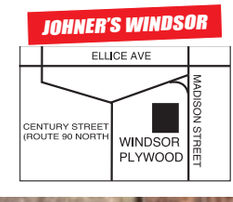

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METRO CALL TO ACTION

#PrideTape scores fundraising goal

Hockey fans across the country are showing their true colours. What started as a modest crowdfunding effort at the University of Alberta has grown into a coast-to-coast grassroots push for greater inclusivity in sports. But there's still more work to be done.

Hockey teams across North America could soon be taping up their sticks with pride after an Edmonton campaign passed its Kickstarter goal.

Pride Tape is an initiative of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta. It aimed to raise $54,000 to have 10,000 rolls of the rainbow-coloured hockey tape made.

As of Sunday afternoon, more than $70,000 had been pledged.

Kris Wells, the institute's director, said the support has been overwhelming.

"That was great to see, and we have really been experiencing momentum for the Kickstarter campaign ever since the Oilers debuted Pride Tape at their skills competition," he said.

The Edmonton Oilers put the tape on their sticks during their skills competition on Jan. 24, and the team's community foundation also gave the campaign $8,000. Wells said that appearance lead to a big surge in interest.

"It just sort of went viral all over North America," he said, "The Oilers' leadership has really been pivotal in the success."

Having surpassed the goal, Wells said the additional funds are going to help get the tape in more hands.

"We're well over what we initially hoped to raise to produce those first 10,000 rolls, so this extra funding just allows us to increase our support."

Wells said the tape is meant to be a conversation-starter about LGBTQ issues in hockey and he's hopeful minor leagues will think about policies or practices that might make people feel more welcome in the sport.

"It has to be more than just putting the tape on your stick," he said.

CONTRIBUTED

"Our goal has been to get the product created, to get it out there and distribute, and hopefully get people talking."

Metro put out a call to readers on Friday encouraging them to have their local teams use Pride Tape, and Wells said that campaign has also lead to results.

"We have seen on social media that people are asking their team." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Keep the momentum going! We think all of Canada's pro and amateur hockey teams should get on board with Pride Tape. If you agree, share this story online and post on social media: #PrideTape

Let's put the brakes on the taxicab board

Colin Fast

The Manitoba Taxicab Board is about to launch the most comprehensive review of Winnipeg's taxi services in the past 25 years. But before the meter starts running, the board, the city and the province should be asking themselves one important question: Do we even need a taxicab board?

In almost every major city in Canada except Winnipeg, decisions about taxi services — such as how many licences to issue and whether to change regulations to allow for ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft — are made by the municipal government.

The taxicab board continues to lurch on, like some zombie regulator that won't die.

Even worse, in every other community in Manitoba, cabs are regulated by the local government. Want to operate a taxi in Brandon, Selkirk or Morden? You're dealing with city hall.

But in Winnipeg — which theoretically has the largest, most sophisticated municipal government in Manitoba — a provincially appointed board runs the show, leaving the city almost completely powerless to make changes.

Now this might have made sense back in 1935, when the taxicab board was formed. Back then, Greater Winnipeg was ruled by several smaller governments. If a taxi company didn't like the regulations passed by the City of Winnipeg, it could just set up shop in St. Boniface or West Kildonan instead.

But a lot of things have changed since then, most notably that Winnipeg was brought under the control of one unified civic government in 1972.

Yet the taxicab board continues to lurch on like some zombie regulator that won't die, won't adapt to new technologies, and won't add new taxi licences no matter how much the city grows.

As part of its pre-emptive attack against allowing Uber to enter the Winnipeg market, the local taxi industry has been pushing the argument that cabs are an essential part of the city's transportation network. They're right, sort of.

Taxis and ride-sharing services can play a key role in improving the mobility of citizens and extending the capabilities of the public transit system. For example, people could take a cab to a transit station, or ride the bus to the grocery store and take an Uber home.

But for cabs and Uber to truly become an integrated part of Winnipeg's transportation strategy, the city needs to have the power to set its own regulations that work in concert with long-term plans for bus, car and bike infrastructure.

Mayor Brian Bowman will be meeting with his big-city counterparts from across Canada later this week, and the battle between taxis and Uber will be on the agenda.

Let's hope he comes back from that discussion with a desire to get taxis back under the control of the civic government, so that Winnipeg can have as much authority as any other big city… or at least as much as Morden.

Colin Fast (@policyfrog) is a communications specialist and freelance journalist in Winnipeg.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Our whole society is on trial with Ghomeshi. Finally.

Today, Jian Ghomeshi will sit in a chair where very few alleged sexual abusers find themselves: in court.

Getting him there took an incredible feat.

In Canada, only about 0.5 per cent of sexual assaults result in court proceedings. And only about 0.2 per cent end in convictions (according to calculations made from 2014 and 2013-2014 data from Statistics Canada).

In numbers: 633,000 self-reported sexual assaults in a year, compared to 1,357 convictions.

Ghomeshi no doubt has his fame, in part, to blame for his unusual fate. And we, Canadians, can thank his fame for giving us the rare chance to collectively take stock of how terribly we fail victims.

This is a national reckoning.

It is a trial to spotlight how alleged abusers come in all kinds of packages — even handsome and charismatic. It will represent all the women, and some men, who do not report sexual assaults to police, because they know the odds are against them.

It will challenge us to remember that all are innocent until proven guilty. And it will force us to admit, in cases of sexual assault, that ideal, coupled with a perverse bias to believe women somehow "wanted it," has left hundreds of thousands of victims a year without justice.

If there were an easy fix, we would not need this case quite so desperately.

In the fall of 2014, when support for Ghomeshi was still high and the allegations seemed all people could talk about, the actor Lucy DeCoutere spoke to media and put her name on the record as a victim of Ghomeshi, when many were still too afraid.

"It sounds like he broke a country," she said with incredulity. "That's crazy."

It is, and it's not.

Those same statistics that make Ghomeshi's trial so exceptional also underline how many untried cases are out there; how many victims living without recourse for what was done to them. Never mind the rest of us, who are all complicit if our justice system does not mete out justice.

It's not only the low reporting rates (five per cent, compared to one-third for all crimes) and impunity. The rate of all violent crimes has fallen by nearly 30 per cent over the last decade, except sexual assaults. It's unchanged.

In other words: We're getting nowhere. Not when it comes to curbing sexual assault, or punishing it.

And so I'm grateful to the women who pressed charges against Ghomeshi, and put both him and our system on trial. Ghomeshi may be the one sitting in the chair, but today, we're all called to court.

metro
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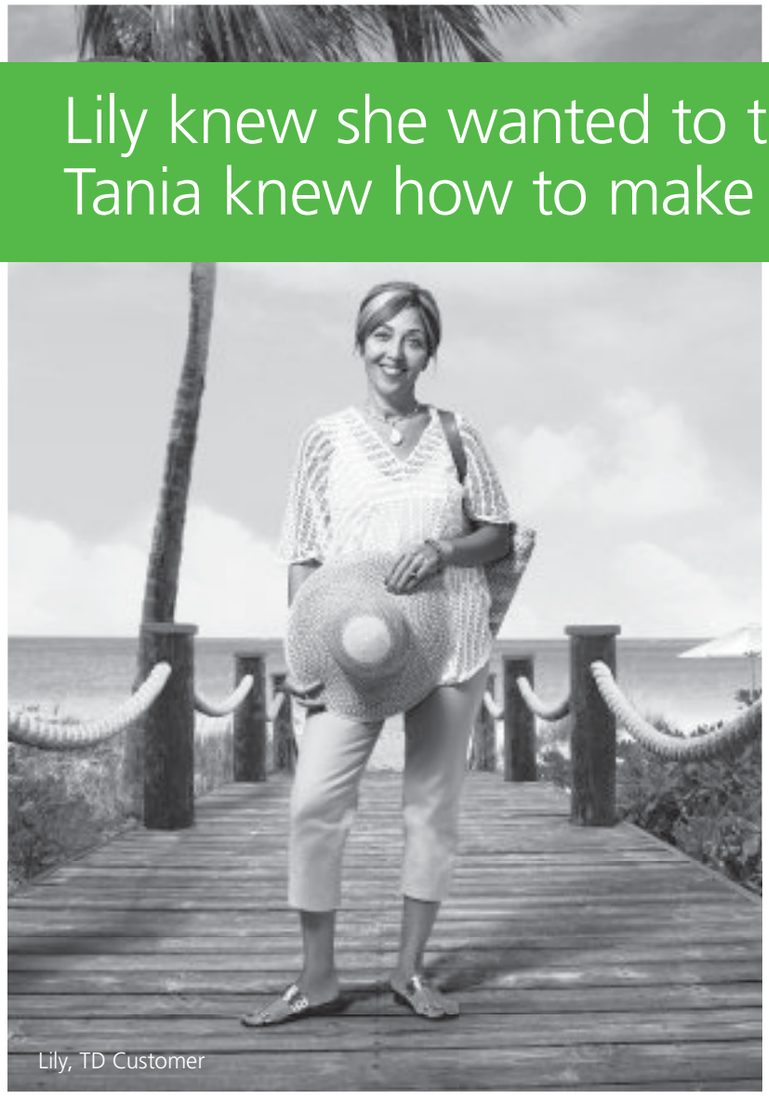

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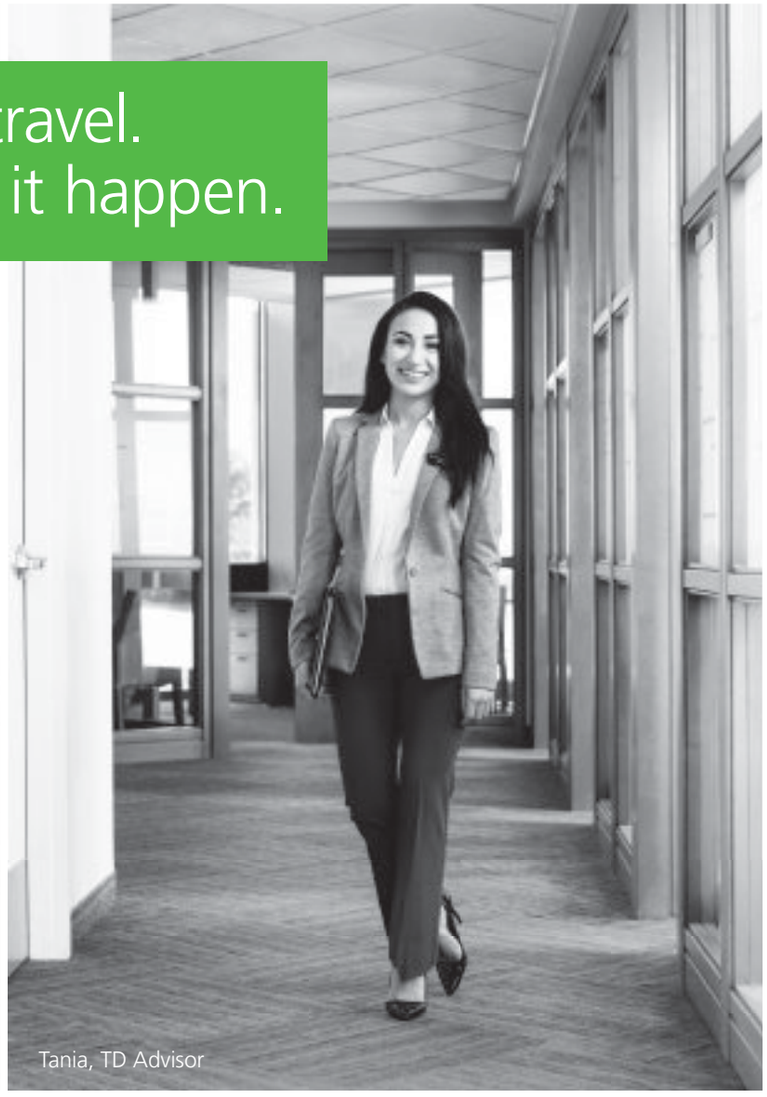

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RSP or TFSA? How to choose

NEST EGG

The keys to understanding the popular savings tools

Michelle Williams

Both RSPs and TFSAs have their advantages. Your choice will depend on your income and financial goals. ISTOCK

Two of the most popular savings tools available to Canadians are the RSP (Retirement Savings Plan) and the TFSA (tax-free savings account). But how do you decide which option is best for you? First of all, it's important to understand the differences between them:

To tax or not to tax

"They're both tax-advantaged savings plans that are endorsed by the federal government, but with some real differences," says Kurt Rosentreter, a senior financial advisor at Manulife Securities and a chartered accountant in Toronto.

The RSP, around since 1957, was once the go-to savings plan for any Canadian looking to save for retirement. How much you can put into your RSP annually is directly related to your earned income: you can contribute up to 18 per cent of your previous year's earned income each year, which gets deducted from your taxable income at tax time. Whatever you don't use gets carried over to the following year.

"So there's room to build significant savings for retirement," says Phil Goldband, partner at G&G Partnership in Toronto.

Though you're taxed when you withdraw your RSP savings, presumably this won't be until you're retired and your income and tax bracket are lower. As such, you're paying significantly less tax on the money when you take it out than you would have paid when you made the contribution in your higher-income years.

In 2009, the federal government introduced the TFSA.

"There is no tax deduction for your TFSA contribution like there is with an RSP contribution," explains Goldband, "however, when the money is withdrawn, the income earned comes out tax-free."

Unlike with an RSP, the amount you can contribute to your TFSA is not related to income. Everyone is allowed to contribute the same amount: up to $5,500 for 2016.

Making the choice

So how do you choose which of the two plans makes the most sense for your hard-earned savings?

"First, a lot depends on your income," says Rosentreter. "The Canadian income tax system is progressive — the more you make, the higher percentage of tax you pay. The RSP offers a tax deduction for your contribution amount every year. So the higher your income, the more beneficial it is."

For lower-income earners, the RSP tax deduction isn't worth as much, since you're not paying a high percentage of tax in the first place.

"Those with lower incomes may not be getting the bang for your buck with the RSP, so the TFSA contribution can make more sense," adds Rosentreter.

But it's not just about income level.

"Generally, it makes sense for young investors to put their money into TFSAs versus RSPs," Goldband says, since they can withdraw the money any time they want without being taxed on the income earned.

For expenses like a new car, a home, tuition or a medical emergency, the flexibility of a TFSA comes in handy.

However, both savings tools are designed to serve the same goal: saving for retirement. To that end, the choice doesn't have to be between one and the other. Young and old investors alike would be wise to look at both plans and consider the advantages each one offers.

"If someone has ample cash flow, they may want to consider maximizing both the RSP and TFSA contributions each year," suggests Rosentreter.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Sundance: Nate Parker's Birth of a Nation wins Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award

Will Annick and Yolanda's financial goals be met? **Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie** has only 10 weeks left to tackle the women's largest financial burdens and teach them to allocate resources.

Swimming in student debt

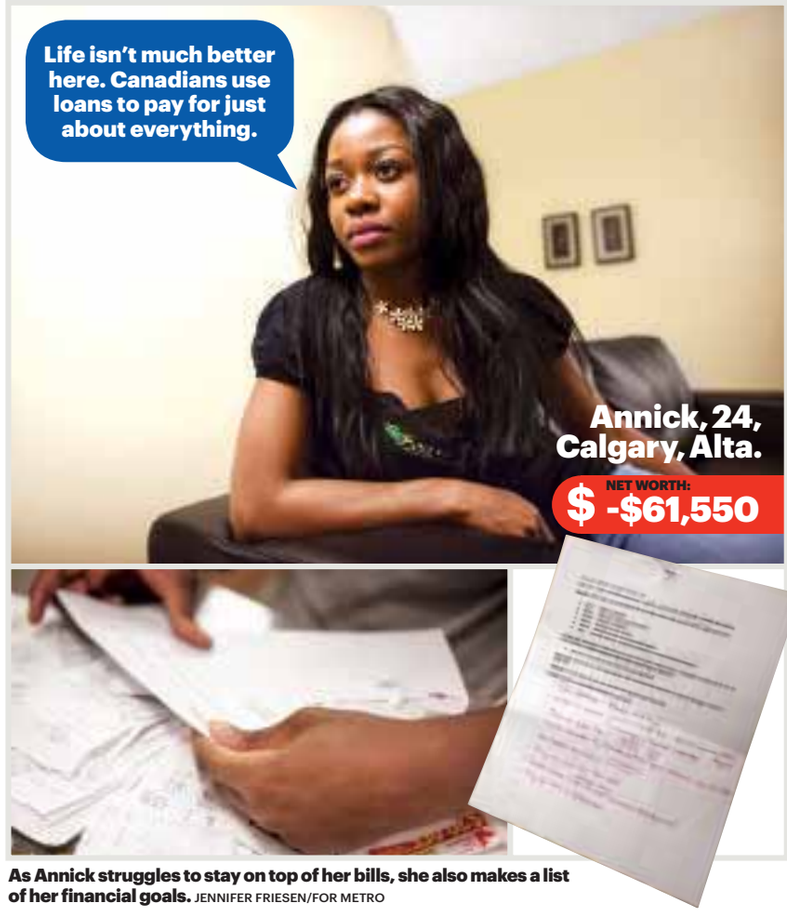
LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metro*money*

THE CHALLENGE: Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie has 10 weeks left to get Annick, 24, and Yolanda, 27, to change their spending behaviours and build a nest egg while meeting their financial obligations. This week we focus on Annick.

THIS WEEK: Annick immigrated to Canada in 2010, finished her undergraduate degree in Energy Management at the University of Calgary, and now works as a property management administrator making $35,000 per year. She's on a mission to crush her consumer debt within six months and save a $25,000 down payment through her RRSP over the next five years.

NEXT WEEK: Yolanda learns there is such a thing as being too frugal! She is depriving herself of the small things in life that would make her happy, and must learn to build herself a "pillow" and stick to a budget so she doesn't binge shop.

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE



As Annick struggles to stay on top of her bills, she also makes a list of her financial goals. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

THE STORY

When Annick arrived to Canada from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), she had high financial hopes. But today she joins thousands of underemployed new graduates in Alberta's tough economy. Compared to the DRC, "Life isn't much better here. Canadians use loans to pay for just about everything. Then they can't afford anything," says Annick.

Weighted down by credit card balances and student loans, Annick recently qualified for repayment assistance through Canada Student Loans, buying her six months of low principle payments of $150 per month. She took another drastic financial step, applying for rent relief through her landlord. This request would reduce her monthly rent to $1,200 from $1,400. She splits this cost with her roommate.

THE LESSON

It's hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel of debt, but Annick's going to use the 60/60/60 plan. Every 60 days she will eliminate another debt, starting with her loans from friends and family because those are loaded with financial and personal anxiety. She'll use money from her second job, $450 per month, to eliminate those quickly.

She'll then move on to her taxes followed by her credit cards. While implementing the 60/60/60 plan, she'll continue to make regular minimum payments on every loan.

A common myth is that Annick can't save money while paying off her debt. But, we've discussed the benefits of using her employer's RRSP matching program, So she's signed up for a personal contribution of $100 per month and her employer kicks in a $50 match — free money! When Annick becomes debt free in five years, she'll have a nest egg she can use for a down payment or retirement.

$ MONEY

A surprise
Annick worked extra hours at her second job in December and was paid double her hourly rate of $17. She applied that 'extra' money to her furniture loan.

Assets	
RRSP	$450
Total Assets:	**$450**
Liabilities	
Student Loans	$58,650
VISA	$1,500
Mastercard	$600
Furniture loan from a friend	$250
Loan from sister	$750
Taxes owed	$250
Total Liabilities	**$62,000**
Net Worth	**(61,550)**

FOOD

Instagram's Chef La Merde named

Mystery chef behind popular parody account revealed as Toronto's Chef Christine Flynn. CONTRIBUTED/INSTAGRAM

Hot rod tartar. Plated Pogos. Deconstructed drumsticks and gas station muffins.

For one year, "Chef Jacques La Merde" sent Instagram foodies into a gleeful tizzy. Elevating snacks from pedestrian munchies to fine art one beautifully plated dish at a time, he became known for his cheeky posts, penchant for foodie terms, over-sharing about his love life and incredible plating skills.

But who was he?

On Thursday, all was revealed. Chef Jacques La Merde — not a he but a she — is Toronto's very own: Christine Flynn, the executive chef for iQ Food Co.

"I thought it would be funny. That's all," writes Flynn in the Bon Appétit article admitting she's the force behind the account. "No deeper meaning, no hidden agendas other than making people laugh and carving out a small spot on the Internet where I could just be a giant goofball."

She writes that the account brought together her three great loves: food, art and irony.

Flynn describes the account as a side project — one with 100,000 followers — "where a bumbling, slightly hysterical chef makes 'fine-dining' food with low-brow ingredients and lovingly points out some of the more ridiculous norms of current dining trends."

But La Merde goes deeper too. Flynn writes about a time two years ago when she felt off balance, left questioning her role in the industry after she switching jobs and moving from Nantucket to Toronto. "After months of feeling lost, creating the account, creating Jacques, made me feel like I'd got my soigné back," she writes. "Shooting the photos... was almost cathartic."

Fans felt something too.

"Fans seemed to admire Jacques's cluelessness and blatant disregard for culinary convention. He defied the norm, and was endlessly and enthusiastically optimistic," she writes, noting that she conversed with curious Instagrammers via direct messages, sending them career tips and restaurant recommendations.

> **"Do you remember how hilarious it was as a kid to put Bugles on your fingers and chase your brother around?"**
> Christine Flynn

Flynn doesn't call La Merde her alter ego, but more of a reflection of herself. They're both "loud, flawed, clumsy, romantically disastrous and a bit sloppy," she admits.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Have money for fast food? Then you have money to save

If you need help becoming a saver, start by making small changes: Every time you hit the drive-through for a burger, drop a dollar into a can you keep in the car. ISTOCK

STASH YOUR CASH

To truly save, put away more than the debt you take on

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

One of the questions I often get from people who have watched my show is, "Are those people for real?" quickly followed by, "Don't they know they have to save something?"

Yes, the people on my show are very real; I took great pains to keep the "reality" in reality TV. And, no, people don't really think they have to save. Some think government benefits will be enough. (That may be true if you're comfortable living on about $18,000 a year.) Others say they just can't find the money to save.

Life is expensive. I know. But saving is important. Thirty or so years ago we knew that and we saved as much as 18 per cent of our income. Since then our savings rates have plummeted. Now, on average, we're saving about five percent of our money. But that's an average; some of us are saving nothing at all.

And then there are the folks who think that as long they're stashing money away in RRSPs, TFSA or CSBs, they're doing fine. Never mind that the balances on their overdrafts, lines of credit or credit cards keep going up, they've got an automatic savings plan in place so they're okie dokie.

What they are is delusional. To be saving, you must be net positive, meaning that you must be putting away more money than you're taking on in debt. If this year you sock away $10,000 in a TFSA but you rack up $6,000 on your line of credit, $3,500 on credit cards and $500 in overdraft, you've saved absolutely nothing.

18%

Thirty or so years ago we saved as much as 18 per cent of our income. Now, on average, we're saving about five per cent of our money.

Saving is the act of taking money out of your cash flow and putting it away a date to be named later. Putting $50 a month away in savings and spending $50 on credit that you're not paying off in full when the bill comes in is *not* saving. You're *pretending* to save.

You know the story of the grasshopper and the ant. Grasshoppers don't plan; ants do. Grasshoppers love their toys; ants love their freedom of choice. Grasshoppers compare themselves to others; ants measure how close they are to reaching their goals. So, are you a grasshopper or are you an ant?

If you answer "grasshopper" all is not lost. Just because you're not an ant doesn't mean you'll never be a saver. You're just going to have to try harder to overcome your natural tendency to have a great time and not think about tomorrow.

If you want to become a saver, focus on making small, manageable changes that will stick. Don't give up coffee completely. Just decide that you're going to trim back your coffee habit by 30 per cent a week and send all the money you're not spending on your caffeine habit to a high interest savings account. Hey, if you can find the money for takeout coffee, you can find the the money to save too.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

BEREAVEMENT

Still-grieving Céline returns to Las Vegas

Just weeks after Céline Dion lost her husband René Angélil and older brother Daniel to cancer, the pop superstar will soon return to work.

A celebration of Angélil's life is slated to take place in Las Vegas on Wednesday, and after having little time to mourn privately, Dion is scheduled to resume her residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace on Feb. 23.

Angélil had been battling a recurrence of throat cancer, which he was first diagnosed with in 1998. He had three sons with Dion, who took a year-long hiatus to care for him before he died.

But even for those like Dion who know the loss of their spouse is imminent, the experience isn't any less painful when their partner dies — an experience Carole Brody Fleet knows all too well.

In 1998, she had just left the legal profession to embark on a new career while enjoying a "normal life" with her police officer husband and their nine-year-old daughter.

Any sense of normalcy was shattered when Brody Fleet's husband was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. He died just two years later. Four months after Mike's death, her dad passed away.

Céline Dion. GETTY IMAGES

"People say things like: 'You knew it was coming ... But there's no way to be prepared for death," said Brody Fleet, an author and grief recovery expert.

Brody Fleet said work can be therapeutic for the bereaved. But she also hopes that the singer takes time away from the spotlight to cope with her grief.

"It's incredibly difficult," said Brody Fleet, whose new book When Bad Things Happen to Good Women is due out in April. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Finally, a thaw in chilly Mr. Robot

THE SHOW: Mr. Robot, Season 1, Episode 7 (Shomi)
THE MOMENT: The Shrug

Portia Doubleday, left, and Rami Malek star in Mr. Robot. CONTRIBUTED

Security expert Angela (Portia Doubleday) is seated in the tasteful study of corporate honcho Terry (Bruce Altman), making a deal: she'll fix his legal woes, if he describes what happened in a boardroom 20 years ago when he and other executives decided to ignore the treatment of hazardous waste in her township. He complies, nonchalantly.

"So you were drunk, eating shrimp cocktail, and it was raining when you decided my mother would die?" she asks. He looks at the ground.

"Did any of it ever give you, or anyone, pause?" she asks.

"Yeah. Sure," he replies. "But then you go home, and you have dinner. And you wake up the next morning." He shrugs.

That shrug, with all it implies, is the first moment of this series that made me feel real emotion. Oh, it's a fascinating show — brainy, original, well-made. But baby, it's chilly.

It revolves around the interior monologues of Elliot (Rami Malek, excellent, both vulnerable and scary), a brilliant hacker with social anxiety disorder, who disdains people for not seeing what he sees: that we've signed our lives away to sneering corporate overlords. He plots with Mr. Robot (Christian Slater), an anarchist, to bring the system down. (Again with the villainous super-rich! They're everywhere!)

Interior monologues are supposed to pull a listener in — give us insights, make us empathic. Elliot's are clever and full of truths. But because they're more about shadowy conspiracies than about illuminating Elliot's soul, they keep me at a distance. I admire them. But I don't feel them.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

metro SPORTS

According to multiple reports, including ESPN, receiver Calvin Johnson has told the Detroit Lions he will retire

Journeyman lives up to all-star billing

NHL

Scott voted tourney MVP after scoring a pair of goals

Fans made enforcer John Scott an NHL all-star by voting him captain of the Pacific Division.

Then they made him tournament MVP. Scott scored twice during the league's new 3-on-3 all-star tournament, bringing cheers from fans and smiles from teammates, and was named MVP as a write-in candidate after leading the Pacific to a 1-0 win in the championship game Sunday night.

The career journeyman was not listed among the three MVP candidates for a Twitter vote late in the final game, but fans took it upon themselves to select him once again, casting their vote for the six-foot-eight forward with five goals in 285 career games.

"I'm sure he won over a lot of people, and got even more fans," Chicago forward Patrick Kane said of Scott.

Fans at Bridgestone Arena booed the MVP options and yelled for Scott. Teammates lifted him on their shoulders while fans chanted "MVP!" and then Scott was announced as the winner and presented with a Honda Pilot Touring SUV.

Scott then posed with his teammates behind their $1-million check. "I think it's the best possible outcome right?" Scott said. "We had a good weekend.... We left winning, so it was great."

The NHL changed the format after last year's all-star game featured 92 shots and a combined 29 goals for the biggest offensive display in the showcase's 60-year history. This time, these all-stars combined for 116 shots and 23 goals.

This event looked much more like the hockey the league plays the rest of the season. Their inspiration was the 3-on-3 overtime approach for a tournament pitting the four divisions against each other in 20-minute games. The winners of the first two games advanced to a third-period championship.

"I broke a better sweat than last year for sure," Philadelphia Flyers and Metropolitan Division forward Claude Giroux said.

Anaheim forward Corey Perry scored the lone goal in the championship game at 3:38 of the second period. Two 10-minute periods were played in each of the three games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Scott was cheered all weekend long in Nashville. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

SKILLS COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Red Wings forward Dylan Larkin won not only the title of fastest skater at this event but set the record for the fastest lap around a full rink. He topped Mike Gartner's time of 13.386 seconds in 1996 — months before Larkin was born.
- Hometown favourite Predators captain Shea Weber won the hardest-shot at 108.1 m.p.h.
- P.K. Subban — channeling his inner Jaromir Jagr with a long-flowing wig — won the breakaway event — decided by Twitter fan voting.

CURLING — CANADIAN JUNIORS

Manitoba's Dunstone & Co. win men's title

Matt Dunstone started the streak in 2013. He returned in 2016 to extend it.

Dunstone and his team from Winnipeg claimed Manitoba's fourth consecutive men's gold medal at the 2016 Canadian junior curling championships on Sunday by beating Northern Ontario's Tanner Horgan 11-4 in the final. Dunstone won gold in 2013 and watched from home as fellow Manitoban Braden Calvert prevailed in 2014 and 2015.

Sunday's victory was just as sweet for the 20-year-old as the first one. "It's just as satisfying, for sure," said Dunstone, whose team is rounded out by third Colton Lott, second Kyle Doering and lead Rob Gordon.

Sunday's gold was nailed down early. Horgan and Northern Ontario opened the game with a first-end deuce. But Dunstone made two pistols in the second — the first, a precision long runback takeout to sit two, and when Tanner Horgan missed his final shot, Dunstone coolly drew to bite the button for a go-ahead three. Manitoba would add a stolen three in the third on another Horgan miss, and then made an in-off takeout in the sixth for a third three-ender.

> **I'm so proud of these guys.**
> Manitoba skip Matt Dunstone

Meanwhile, Mary Fay's clutch eighth-end draw clinched the women's title for Nova Scotia at the Canadian junior championships. Fay's shot broke open a 5-5 tie as Nova Scotia, rounded out by third Kristin Clarke, lead Janique LeBlanc and second Karlee Burgess, went on to a 9-5 win over British Columbia's Sarah Daniels in Sunday's final.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Djokovic romps way to 11th Slam

Novak Djokovic maintained his perfect streak in six Australian Open finals with a 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory Sunday that consigned Andy Murray to a fifth defeat in championship deciders at Melbourne Park.

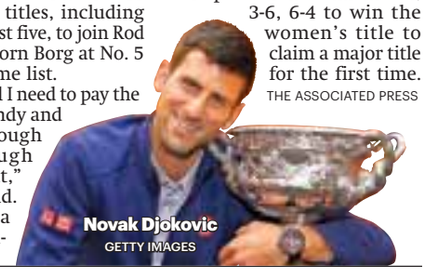
Djokovic equalled Roy Emerson's long-standing record of six Australian Open titles and increased his career haul to 11 Grand Slam titles, including four of the last five, to join Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg at No. 5 on the all-time list.

"First of all I need to pay the respect to Andy and his team. Tough match, tough luck tonight," Djokovic said. "You're a great champion, great friend, very committed to this sport. I'm sure in the future you're going to have many opportunities."

Murray became only the second man to lose five finals at one major — Ivan Lendl lost five and won three U.S. Open finals in the 1980s.

On Saturday, Angelique Kerber upset Serena Williams 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to win the women's title to claim a major title for the first time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Novak Djokovic GETTY IMAGES

SURVEY

Players don't trust NFL with health

An Associated Press survey of 100 NFL players finds that fewer than half think the league's clubs, coaches and team doctors have the athletes' best interests at heart when it comes to health and safety.

The divide between older and younger players is striking.

Barely a third of the players with at least four years of experience, 35 per cent, told The Associated Press they trust that their interests are being protected. That is far lower than the 71 per cent of players in Years 1-3 who hold that positive outlook.

Players from all 32 teams were surveyed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1,672

The number of injuries during 2015 regular-season games that resulted in missed time, which works out to roughly one for each player in the league.

IN BRIEF

Calgary lugers win bronze

Canada claimed a bronze medal in the team relay event Sunday on the final day of the luge world championships.

The new-look Calgarian relay team featuring 20-year-old Mitch Malyk, Alex Gough along with Tristan Walker and Justin Snith captured their first ever medal together.

The Germans captured the World Championship title on their home track. Latvia won the silver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL commish Bettman signs deal through 2022

Gary Bettman said his relationship with the union has never been better. Perhaps that's why he is willing to stick around as NHL commissioner into the next decade.

Bettman signed a contract through 2022, he confirmed in an interview Sunday before the All-Star game. The deal was first reported by Sports Illustrated earlier in the day. "This happened many, many months ago," Bettman said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Artichoke, Gruyère and Spinach Savoury Bread Pudding

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If a frittata and bread pudding had a baby it would be this savoury dish of deliciousness.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 40 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp butter, divided
- 2 shallots, chopped
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 2 thick slices of crusty country bread cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cups packed chopped spinach
- 1 1/2 cups grated Gruyère
- 14 oz can artichokes hearts, drained and chopped
- 1/4 cup milk
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp fresh chopped basil

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Divide Tbsp of butter between four 10-oz ramekins. Place them on a baking sheet in the oven on the middle rack. Allow butter to melt. Remove baking sheet from oven and grease the ramekins using the melted butter. Set aside.
2. In a medium skillet, heat 1 Tbsp of the butter. Add the shallots, salt and pepper. Cook until they soften, about 3 minutes.
3. In a large mixing bowl, toss the bread, spinach and cheese. Add the shallots, artichoke hearts, milk and eggs and mix. Sprinkle in the basil.
4. Spoon the mixture into prepared ramekins. Place the baking sheet of ramekins back in the oven and cook until golden brown, about 25 minutes.
5. Remove baking sheet from the oven and allow ramekins to cool for 10 to 15 minutes. Serve in ramekins or run a paring knife around the edges to loosen the pudding and turn out onto plates to serve.

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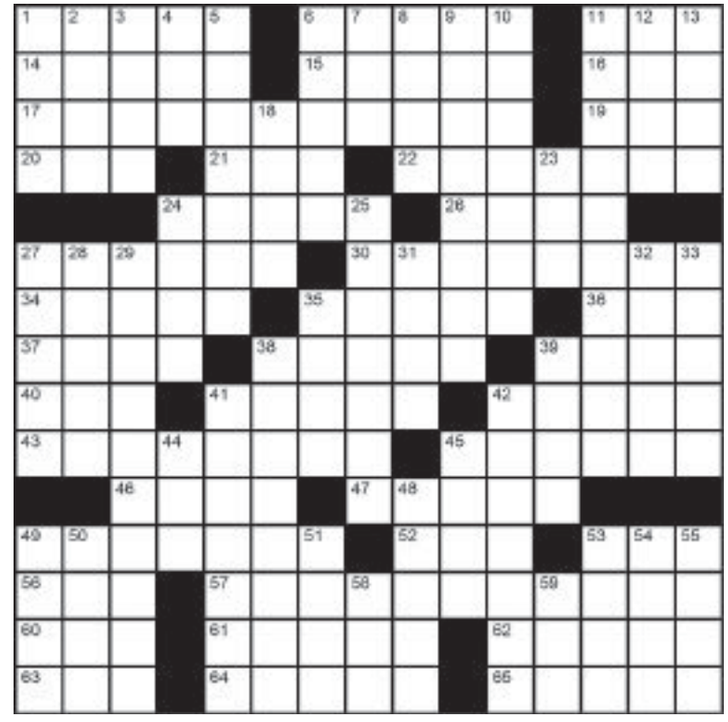
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. The Rockies, for example
6. Invites to one's penthouse suite: 2 wds.
11. Ms. Leoni
14. What the Toonie of Canada is, quite simply: 2 wds.
15. Kitchen appliances company
16. Grampus
17. Hair salon offerings for '90s pop stars: 2 wds.
19. "Ick."
20. __ dollar bill
21. Howdies
22. Ruin
24. Tears For Fears member Mr. Smith, and namesakes
26. Tandoor-baked creation
27. Peace of mind
30. Other word in #29-Down's answer
34. Where Sidney Crosby's sport is played: 2 wds.
35. "American Pie" Chevy-driving spot
36. Status __
37. To, archaically
38. Discovered through the grapevine
39. Roadside border
40. Pecan or almond
41. Covered in thicket/wooded
42. Migratory birds, for example
43. Scatter
45. Repartee
46. Retro toy, __ Bat
47. Henhouse
49. "101 Dalmatians" (1996) villainess
52. AC/DC song
53. Brit. fliers
56. 'Racket' suffix
57. Nova Scotia hometown of hockey star Sidney Crosby: 2 wds.
60. Cornwall's country, curtly
61. Pointed arch
62. Furious
63. Fifth musical note, variantly
64. To-the-North-Sea river in Germany
65. Birchbark vessel

DOWN
1. River float
2. Land size
3. Lunch hour
4. Soldiers
5. Gush about
6. Possessed, archaically
7. Li'l quantity
8. Remarked
9. Like a story yet to be written
10. The Northwest __
11. Losing-lots-of-blood emergency bandaging
12. Therefore
13. "__ Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus
18. Cork's country
23. 19th Greek alphabet letter
24. Irene's "Fame" (1980) role
25. The talking human
27. Circular
28. Yawnsville
29. Team #57-Across plays Center for (First word here ...more at #30-Across)
31. Song in '65's "The Sound of Music": "Climb __ Mountain"
32. Health care professional
33. Solemn
35. Fewer
38. Antique timekeeper
39. Penny
41. Herd member with a sound maker: 2 wds.
42. __ bypass surgery
44. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (2015) character, __ Dameron
45. __ fide
48. Additional
49. Third letters
50. __, Nevada
51. Ms. MacGraw's
53. Horse coat hue
54. Car
55. Costless
58. Dusk
59. Sports or Underwire

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your ability to charm your way into other people's affections will take you far. You'll get your way at home and work by telling what they want to hear. It may not be true but it makes them feel good.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Move fast to get ahead of your rivals. Certain people seem determined to prove that they are the ones most deserving of promotion but they will only succeed if you let them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You've been avoiding a task you think will be unpleasant but if you tackle it today it really won't be so bad. Friends and family will help if you let them know that you need it.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Work-related issues won't be the trial they have been lately. You will make a positive impression on employers and other important people today, simply by being yourself.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Others will go out of their way to do things for you over the next few days, and you must take advantage. Your instincts tell you it won't always be as easy as this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
What you have said or done has only made matters worse. Of course, if you had listened to the advice given to you by a friend earlier on you could have saved yourself a lot of bother.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's not worth trying to control every situation. At some point you will realize it is better to let fate take its chosen course than struggle to steer it in a direction more to your liking.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You'll feel good about yourself today and because of that you will be more open to the world. Wherever you go and whatever you do, stay calm. Minor annoyances are a fact of life.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be fair in your dealings and give others the benefit of the doubt if they stray from the straight and narrow. A new love affair is possible this week, or an existing one will be more fun than it has been.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Not everyone is as logical as you and some people can be remarkably sensitive, so don't criticize too harshly. There's a way to break unpleasant news, a way that calls for a tact and understanding that you must learn.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Get away from the daily grind and recharge your batteries in a more tranquil environment. It's a great time to take a short vacation but if that is not possible at least don't tax yourself with new chores and responsibilities.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
There is a danger that you will create problems that need not exist. The most useful advice anyone can give you now is to stop pushing so hard.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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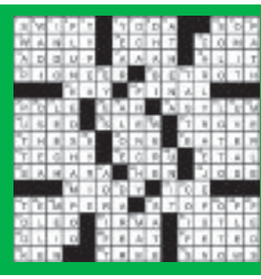

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7	4	9	8	1	6	5	2	3
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